



The Planter

"The seed is the word of God", Luke 8:11



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Holding On for Dear Life Ray Reynolds

One day in the late Spring they came to his cell in the Mamertine Prison in Rome and opened the door. His executioners led him out of the city on the Ostian Road. As they were walking out, other travelers would have been walking into Rome. They would have paid him little attention. No one would have recognized his face. No one would have known his crime. He was just another prisoner, just another "dead man walking."

After traveling a few miles out, the executioners would have stopped. A block would be laid down. His head would be placed upon it. A sword would be raised. And in an instant the head of the most influential writer of all time would roll upon the ground.

Paul had known his share of suffering, but he did not shrink back from his calling. If we could look closer, we would see how scars spread across his back like a windshield crack. We could witness how his wounds stiffened his joints. His own account of his hardships included floggings, lashings, beatings with rods, pelting with stones, shipwrecks, dangers from rivers and bandits and Jews and Gentiles, danger in the city and in the country, danger at sea and from false believers. What a story! He knew hard labor, lack of sleep, hunger, thirst, cold and nakedness (II Corinthians 11:23-29). He wanted the Corinthians to remember his struggle.

It's a wonder that he could move at all but move he did. From Corinth to Ephesus, from Thessalonica to Colossae, he left his footprints all over the known world of his day. His visits to these cities were not for sightseeing. He worked. Long days of preaching and establishing churches. However, many times he was holding on for dear life! This message resonated with the Corinthians church.

When he wasn't walking, he was writing. He wrote letters to the church in Rome and Corinth and Galatia and Ephesus. He wrote to Titus and he wrote to Timothy. Letters that continue to bless. God's grace turned his world upside down and his life was spent telling others about it, until that day on the Ostian Road, when he drew his last breath.

When you face struggles because of your faith, remember Paul. He anchored himself to a purpose that was higher and greater than his life. There are many fights you can fight, but Paul trained himself for the "good fight" (II Timothy 4:6-8).

His fight did not end at death. His writings have encouraged, exhorted, and educated followers of Christ till today and for all the tomorrows to come. He gave himself totally to eternal things. So can you. Fight the good fight. And like Paul, finish the race well.

September 20, 2026

Sunday Morning
Opening Prayer Steve Fletcher
Closing Prayer Joey Jones

Scripture Reading Adam Cordell

Sunday Evening
Opening Prayer Justin Glaze
Closing Prayer Payton Payne

Remember in prayer:

Tim Hester's surgery is scheduled for November 15th.
Rick Davison, Amanda Fletcher, Don Duncan, Chris Travis, Joan and Steve Henry, Ayla Alexander, Kenleigh Bailey, Jill Spears, Wally Booker, Norene O'Kelly, Joe Chambers, Bill and Billie Nolen, Stefan Hoglund.

Oak View Nursing Home: Betty Floyd.

Brothers Keepers Groups One and Two will meet after services tonight. **Group Three** will meet next Sunday night.

A **Gospel Meeting** begins today at Subligna with **Marvin Crouch** preaching. Monday through Wednesday services will be at 7:00 pm

Record for the week of September 13, 2026:
10 am 11 am 5 pm Wed Contribution
99 97 92 97 \$4115.00

God Will Visit You

In Genesis 50:24, Joseph tells his brethren that he is about to die and that "...God will surely visit you" (KJV – other versions have "take care of you").

How would it be if God were to visit you? Would you have to make any changes in your dress, the books you read or the movies you watch? Would you have to speak differently to each other? Would your house reflect love and devotion or hatred and bitterness?

God is not literally going to come bodily to our houses, but He is there spiritually. He knows what we are inside our house when others may not know. He will hold each of us accountable for the way we act and what we do in our family relationships.

This word "visit" means "to exercise oversight over a subordinate either in the form of inspection or acting to change the circumstances of a subordinate whether for better or worse" (Strong's Exhaustive Concordance #6485). When Joseph spoke those words, his people were enjoying the blessings of Egypt. But there was coming a time when they would be enslaved. At that time, God was going to visit them and deliver them to the promised land.

We need to remember that God exercises oversight of us and wants to take care of us. Just as God visited the Jews when they had needs, so God will visit us when we have a need. But we must stay in an obedient relationship with him. Why do we think that we can live as we like all of our life and then, all of a sudden when we need help, all we have to do is holler and God will deliver us? God does want to visit us – that is to assist us. But he is only going to assist those who are his faithful servants.

Let each of us live so that God can visit us when we need the help.

Elders:

Steve Fletcher, Hugh Glaze, Dan Logan, Tim York

Deacons: Justin Glaze, Carter Logan, Adam Morgan, Jerry Reaves

Minister: Hugh Glaze

Song Leader: Adam Morgan